

City of Columbia Columbia, Richland County Certified Local Government Program



Signs such as the one above are placed in front of properties who are applying for Certificates of Appropriateness within the Design Review Districts. Within each district, alterations, additions and new construction are all required to have a Certificate of Appropriateness before work can begin.



Before a neighborhood can be considered for listing as a Design Review District, each home must be surveyed and the contributing and non-contributing structures officially listed. Each district also gets its own set of design guidelines based on the area's architecture and needs of the neighborhood. Surveyors also do research on the neighborhood to determine the original boundaries and which homes are part of the original layout.



The Certified Local Government Program is a preservation partnership between local, state and national governments focused on promoting historic preservation at the grass roots level. The Certified Local Government (CLG) program in South Carolina promotes community preservation planning and heritage education through a partnership with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and National Park Service that facilitates funding, technical assistance, and training. To become certified, a community must have a current survey of historic properties, a preservation ordinance, designated historic properties or historic districts, and a functioning Board of Architectural Review. CLG communities are required to report their work annually to the National Park Service and SHPO.

Celebrating its 20th year as a CLG on July 19th 2009, the City of Columbia is one of South Carolina's most active local government communities with 15 official Design Preservation Districts and 7 additional districts in the process of being listed throughout the city. The design review process for Columbia's historic and design districts is administered by the Design/Development Review Commission and four design review staff. All projects come directly to staff for consultation first who then decide as to whether the project can be approved at the staff level, or must be channeled through the Commission according to the City Ordinance.

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